

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
Foster Community Center  
April 8, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Adam Hussain, James McClurken, Paul Holland, Gib King, Rita O'Brien

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Veronica Gracia-Wing (excused); Bryan Beverly (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Sandy Wolfe, Peckham Work Force Action Team; Mary Pollock; Mary Gallick; James Blair; Sue Eareckson, Friends of Bancroft Park

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Paul Holland asked to delete Park Stewardship. He has nothing to report, only provided the article of Detroit Parks as information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mary Gallick was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her dedication to the Parks and Recreation Department for 27 years of service. Mary Gallick arranged speakers and organized presentations by people who wanted to share their experiences from traveling around the world.

**STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS**

**Jim Blair – RiverTrail Parking Issue**

Jim Blair is asking the Park Board to help him and Brett with a serious problem along the River Trail at Museum Drive. Impression 5 and R.E. Olds Museum patrons are using park land and the River Trail for parking and driving on the trail.

Brett Kaschinske drew a diagram of the area in question and clarified the no parking zones and area where people are parking and driving. However, I-5 is providing a pamphlet highlighting designated parking for busses but they are parking anywhere.

Brett Kaschinske stated he has been in contact with I-5 and is setting a meeting with Eric Larson from I-5 and Bill Adcock from R.E. Olds Museum to work on a solution for the parking issues. A quick solution will be to place barricading to stop the parking in the non-designated areas.

Paul Holland stated three steps could be taken; ticket everyone, since I-5 is using it for parking they could pay for signs indicating parking areas for busses or lease it to I-5 for parking.

Brett Kaschinske stated is not sure if people are parking on Museum Drive to avoid the parking fee at the Lansing Center or because the gates at the Lansing Center are down. I-5 is not opposed to parking fees, but the lot is shared with Riverwalk Theatre so it fills up fast.

Jim Blair stated in his years with the City the riverfront was not used as a parking lot. It is not just I-5, but people attending events at the Lansing Center.

Gib King inquired if the gate is adequate.

Brett Kaschinske stated both I-5 and R.E. Olds Museum have keys to the gate and are not either locking the gate back up or more have keys.

Paul Holland inquired if there has not been any ticketing or towing.

Brett Kaschinske spoke with the Chief of Police and he mentioned better signs.

Adam Hussain stated clearly signs are needed first.

Gib King stated there are four things that should be done; contact the gate keepers, better signage, notify law enforcement and determine the service needs of the gate.

Rick Kibbey stated he would move to take the steps to reinforce the rules of no parking on park land, better signage, traffic control by issuing tickets, initiate communication with I-5 and R.E. Olds and a long term study and plan of parking needs.

Brett Kaschinske clarified parking is allowed on non-designated areas such as concerts, special events.

James McClurken stated he is not opposed to the motion and seconded it. He is not sure who does these studies, but he likes the idea. 6 years; 0 days

**Motion carried**

**Peckham**

Sandy Wolfe from Peckham Workforce Action Team stated she had spoken with Adam Hussain and Peckham would like to adopt a park and are interested in Washington Park.

They would like a park accessible to everyone and provide grills. Washington Park has apartment buildings in the area, it is on the bus line and the hospital is nearby and parents with children in the hospital could have an outdoor area to enjoy.

Peckham received a \$10,000 grant last year and they put in three (3) seating areas, grills and picnic tables at Potter Park Zoo. She realizes it will take time to make parks accessible and they would like to be part of the process.

Brett Kaschinske stated he has concerns with access from the parking lot to the pavilion and a sidewalk may be the first thing to look at.

Sandy Wolfe stated there are three (3) groups at Peckham to perform cleanup on a regular basis and plant flowers. They would each take a weekend and then all come together the last weekend for a large cleanup.

Adam Hussain inquired if Washington Park has any adoptees. Kaschinske stated not at this time.

Rick Kibbey mentioned setting up a plan for this park.

Gib King stated if they received a grant last year and if that could be done again this year, it could put projects on the fast track.

Adam Hussain inquired if anyone met with Pat Buchanan on April 1. He stated 20% of the population has access issues. The Parks Department needs to make more of an effort in planning and we need to do a better job at leveraging the resources Peckham has to offer.

Adam Hussain stated he has visited Potter Park Zoo to observe the ADA picnic tables and they are not only being used by individuals in chairs, but also by families with strollers. This makes it accessible to more than those with disabilities.

**Bancroft Park**

Sue Eareckson stated there has been a long delay in renovations and improvements to Bancroft Park. There has been conflicting information regarding the drain project, the lawsuit and she is hoping to get a completion date and correct information.

Brett Kaschinske stated everything he has heard from Paul Pratt, Ingham County Drain Commission, the final ruling from the Supreme Court was the lawsuit on behalf of Lansing Township did not go through and he believes that was the final appeal.

Brett Kaschinske stated according to Paul Pratt, construction is due to start in 2015. There is a meeting set for April 14 to discuss coordinating the project; this will include the start time and where, re-visiting the original agreement. We do not want construction to take place on the course until we are in the low season, we also have some requests where to put dirt that they will not have to be hauled out and will help us.

Brett Kaschinske stated there is money for pavement repairs, we did not want to do any repairs at Bancroft and then have construction traffic damaging what was done. This whole project has gone longer than anyone anticipated. The playground should have been repaired from the storm damage.

Bret Kaschinske stated we are again talking about putting a road through Ormond Park for a safer entry for the neighborhood. Traffic studies will be conducted.

Rick Kibbey stated as this project advances he wants to have a presentation on the entrance and have the neighbors present.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Paul Holland moved to approve the March 11, 2015 minutes as submitted; seconded by Adam Hussain and Jim McClurken. 6 yeas; 0 nays

**Motion carried****NEW BUSINESS****Park Stewardship**

Rick Kibbey stated the Friends of Lansing Parks will be modeled after the Neighborhood Council and he will bring back the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws which will be modeled after the Friends of Grand Rapids Parks.

Adam Hussain inquired if a park stewardship program already exists with the department and how do we inform people.

Brett Kaschinske stated yes it does, but we do not have a specific staff person to organize it but he does work with groups who wish to participate in the adopt-a-park program.

Rita O'Brien inquired if this could be put under Andi Crawford.

Brett Kaschinske stated the word is getting out and neighborhood groups are contacting us to clean up the parks and the tool trailer is being used.

Adam Hussain asked if he could advertise for this program and can the department organize it.

Brett Kaschinske stated yes and we will not deny people who want to participate.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Rick Kibbey inquired about Sparrow buying Bingham School and managing the green space.

Brett Kaschinske stated he is unaware of any information.

### **UPDATES**

#### **CIP**

Brett Kaschinske stated we have \$700,000 plus and will include: kids camp, citywide maintenance, parking lot repairs, fish stocking, Ferris Park soccer field, Women's Historical building, Tecumseh Park dock, Grand River Park boat launch.

Paul Holland questioned siding the Women's Historical building before a deal is made on the agreement that is due to expire and clarified even if they were not there the City would still own the structure.

Brett Kaschinske stated yes and the structure is in sound condition.

#### **Master Plan**

Brett Kaschinske stated the plan has been approved and has been turned into the DNR.

#### **County Trail Millage**

Brett Kaschinske stated he, Rick Kibbey, Gib King and board members from the Friends of Lansing River Trail (FLRT) met with the Mayor to discuss a strategic plan to present to the county the needs of the City for the trail. Bids are due on April 21 for the consultant.

James McClurken inquired what the process will be.

Adam Hussain stated the task force met twice and realized they have no idea about trails and put out an RFP for a consultant.

Gib King stated the FLRT want to work with the City to prioritize a plan to present to the county. At this time there is no plan on how the money will be used.

Brett Kaschinske stated mowing to start April 20. Seasonal workers started this week, so picnic tables and trash barrels will be put out.

#### **Remarks by Board Members**

Gib King stated he was involved in an accident with his bike at Jolly and Aurelius and the crossing for the River Trail needs to be marked better and have signs.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary

Approved May 13, 2015